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Making sense of the world

THE BEST MAGAZINE FOR CURIOUS KIDS

THE WEEK

Junior



HEROES & HEARTBREAK

Emergency responders battle massive wildfires that have devastated Los Angeles p2





This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

Los Angeles County, which includes the city of Los Angeles, covers about 4,084 square miles and has a population of nearly 10 million people.



Surveying the fire damage in Altadena, California

How you can help



If you would like to help people affected by the wildfires, talk to your family about contributing to an organization such as the American Red Cross, World Central Kitchen, or Save the Children. Locally, the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank and Pasadena Humane are accepting donations.

Wildfires devastate California

Multiple wildfires have devastated parts of Los Angeles, California. Nearly 40,000 acres have burned and entire neighborhoods have been destroyed in one of the worst natural disasters in US history.

What happened?

At 10:30 a.m. on January 7, a brush fire was reported in the hills above Pacific Palisades, a neighborhood near the Pacific Ocean. By noon, strong winds had caused the fire to tear through densely populated areas. Residents were ordered to evacuate. Just after 6 p.m., the Eaton fire broke out about 35 miles to the east and spread quickly in the Altadena and Pasadena neighborhoods. Over the next three days, six other fires broke out in the region. In total, more than 150,000 people were ordered to evacuate and 87,000 were given evacuation warnings. About 9,000 firefighters and more than 7,500 California state workers battled the blazes. About 1,680 National Guard members joined them and helped with public safety.

What was the damage?

When *The Week Junior* went to press on January 14, the Palisades fire had burned about 23,700 acres and the Eaton fire had burned about

14,000 acres. Combined, the fires damaged or destroyed more than 12,000 homes, schools, businesses, and other structures. At least 25 people died and 23 were missing. Dozens of roads were shut down, more than 80,000 households were without power, and schools across the region were closed. As smoke spread across the county, officials issued air-quality warnings and urged people to wear masks. The fires are expected to be the costliest in US history, with losses estimated to exceed \$135 billion.

Why were the wildfires so severe?

In the days before the fires, officials issued "extreme fire weather" warnings. The strongest winds in more than 10 years were expected to reach 55 to 80 miles per hour across a region that was extremely dried out after months without rain. Dead brush and trees created fuel for fires and made it possible for even a small spark to ignite a massive blaze. At press time, the sources of the fires had not been determined, but officials said sparking power lines or older fires that restarted may have contributed. The winds were also a factor because they prevented aircraft from dropping water and fire-retardant chemicals. In addition, news reports said that about 20% of fire hydrants

used to fight the Palisades fire went dry due to a strain on the water system.

How are people helping?

President Joe Biden declared a major disaster, making federal funding available to people affected by the fires. California Governor Gavin Newsom and Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass signed executive orders that will speed up the rebuilding process. Fire crews from Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, Utah, and Idaho, as well as Mexico and Canada, traveled to California to help. The American Red Cross set up shelters, and the nonprofit World Central Kitchen began serving meals to displaced people and fire crews. Volunteers gave out water, toiletries, diapers, clothes, and other essentials. Many animal shelters took in pets and wild animals that had escaped the fires, and one veterinarian provided a home for 20 dogs, 20 cats, and a rabbit.

What will happen next?

At press time, the Palisades fire was 17% contained, the Eaton fire was 35% contained, and others were nearly out. More high winds were expected until January 15, and officials had issued warnings and sent crews to high-risk areas. Firefighters will continue to battle the blazes, and the sources of the fires will be investigated. When the fires are extinguished, crews will start removing debris so recovery and rebuilding can begin.



A helicopter drops water.



Colorful art found in queen's tomb

Archaeologists in Egypt announced on January 8 that they had discovered artwork from the tomb of a queen who died nearly 3,500 years ago. They found more than 1,000 carved and painted stone blocks that were part of a foundation wall around the temple of Queen Hatshepsut.

Hatshepsut, who ruled for about two decades starting in 1473 BCE, was one of ancient Egypt's most powerful female leaders. The colorful stones show her and King Thutmose III, who took the throne after her, participating in religious rituals. The artwork gives researchers insight into the period when Hatshepsut ruled, which was known as a time of peace and prosperity.

The temple was initially discovered in the 1890s, but excavation at this site began in 2022. Experts have also found arrowheads, tools, coffins, and pottery there. The blocks will be displayed at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Zahi Hawass, an archaeologist who is leading the excavation, described the stones as "the most beautiful scenes I've ever seen in my life."



Some of the decorated stones



ANCIENT ALPHABET
"Alpha" and "beta" are the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, which was developed in about 1000 BCE and is still used today.

People in a generation have birthdays within a certain span of years.

Generation Beta begins

As 2025 starts, so does a new generation. A generation is a group of people born during a specific period of time, typically 15 to 18 years (though there is sometimes overlap between generations). People born on or after January 1, 2025, through the year 2039 will be called Generation Beta (also known as Gen Beta).

The grouping before Generation Beta is called Generation Alpha (2010–2024). Before that was Gen Z (1997–2012), Millennials (1981–1996), Gen X (1965–1980), Baby Boomers (1946–1964), and the Silent Generation (1928–1945).

Grouping people into generations is useful for researchers who use age when studying trends in peoples' attitudes and behaviors. Although the specific characteristics of this new generation are not yet known, experts have

made some predictions. For example, they think the use of artificial intelligence and other technology will set Gen Beta apart from previous generations and help them solve problems in society. Challenges like climate change may also inspire Gen Beta to focus even more on sustainability than previous generations have.

Jason Dorsey is a researcher and author who wrote a book about generations. He told NBC News that labels are useful when referring to a group of people who have been affected by the same events or experiences in their lifetimes. Generational grouping can be "really helpful to get a head start, to create more of a shared understanding," he said. But, Dorsey added, it's also important to remember that, even within a generation, "we're all still individuals."



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

SHARING BOOKS

A one-year celebration to mark the 200,000th Little Free Library (LFL) has begun. Millions of free books have passed through the tiny libraries, which exist in all 50 states and 128 countries. "It's time to celebrate!" LFL said.



A Little Free Library



Hoda Kotb and friends

A SWEET SEND-OFF

During Hoda Kotb's last week as a host of the *Today* show on NBC, she was joined by fuzzy friends Elmo, Abby, and Grover. The Sesame Street residents gave Hoda a book they created titled *Hi Is for Hoda*. "We made something a little special and magical just for you," Abby told Hoda.

FUN IN THE SNOW

Giant pandas at the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC, frolicked in the first snow that has fallen since they arrived in October. Bao Li and Qing Bao rolled and tumbled amid the white flakes. "It was paws-atively the panda *snowment* of our dreams!" said the zoo. Visitors can see the bears starting January 24.



The panda snow day



The Carter family church



The final service for Jimmy Carter was held at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, where his family worshipped for decades. Carter was also a deacon there and taught Sunday school from 1981 to 2019. In addition, he built many objects out of wood for the church, including a bookcase and a cross.

State funeral for former President

On January 9, world leaders joined the family and friends of former President Jimmy Carter for his funeral at the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, DC. The service ended a week of tributes to the longest-living former President in US history, who died on December 29 at age 100.

How was Carter honored?

Services for Carter, who was President from 1977 to 1981, began on January 4 in his hometown of Plains, Georgia. A bell at his childhood farm was rung 39 times to honor the 39th President. The service then moved to the Carter Presidential Center in Atlanta before continuing at the US Capitol building in Washington. As Carter lay in state in both cities, tens of thousands of people walked past

his casket to pay their respects. A state funeral (remembrance conducted by the government for historically important figures) was then held.

Who attended?

The funeral brought together all five living US Presidents — Joe Biden, Donald Trump, Barack Obama, George W. Bush, and Bill Clinton—for the first time since former President George H.W. Bush's funeral in 2018. Other attendees included Vice President Kamala Harris, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, and Panama's former president Martín Torrijos, whose father led Panama during Carter's Presidency.

What happened at the service?

In keeping with Presidential tradition, Carter planned the details of his funeral. Biden delivered a

eulogy (speech in praise of a person) commending Carter's service as President, his 40 years of humanitarian work that followed, and his caring and humble nature. Eulogies written by former President Gerald Ford and former Vice President Walter Mondale were given by their sons. Three of Carter's grandsons also spoke. Singer Phyllis Adams performed "Amazing Grace," and Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood sang John Lennon's "Imagine," said to be Carter's favorite song.

Where is Carter buried?

After a private service at his family church (see box above), Carter was buried next to his wife, Rosalynn, near their Plains home. Carter left their house, built in 1961, to the National Park Service, which will turn it into a museum as part of the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park.



WORD OF THE WEEK

PEN

The pens we use today are very different from the original ones, which were made from feathers. A feather's quill would be sharpened and split to form a nib, which was then dipped in ink. The word "pen" is based on the Latin *penna*, meaning "feather."



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

January 11, 1878

Dairy company begins milk delivery

On January 11, 1878, the New York Dairy Company began daily delivery of milk in glass bottles to people's homes. At that time, milk wasn't as accessible because many people didn't own iceboxes to safely store it. In the early 1900s, the milk delivery business declined as more homes had iceboxes and refrigeration was invented. Today, National Milk Day is celebrated on January 11.

Delivering milk

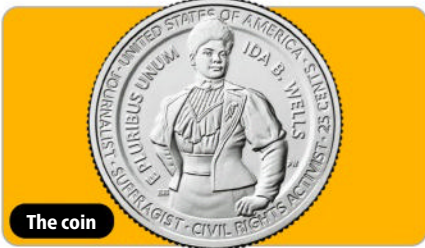




A view of Chicago

Buildings in Chicago go green

As of this month, more than 400 government buildings in Chicago now run on renewable energy (energy created by nature that does not run out). The buildings, which include City Hall, libraries, and fire stations, draw 70% of their energy from a solar farm in central Illinois. The move is expected to cut emissions of carbon, a gas that contributes to climate change, by about 320,000 tons a year, which is like removing 67,000 gas-powered cars from the roads.



The coin

Coin honors civil rights leader

The US Mint has released a quarter featuring Ida B. Wells (1862–1931), a journalist and activist who spoke out against the unfair treatment of Black people. It is the 16th coin in the American Women Quarters Program, which honors women who have made contributions to the US. Wells exposed injustices, such as poor school conditions for Black children, and fought for women's right to vote.



The bird

Rare yellow cardinal spotted

A rare yellow northern cardinal has been seen in St. Louis, Missouri. The yellow color is not a new species but is due to a mutation (change) in the bird's pigment that affects about one in 1 million birds. The photographer for Major League Baseball's St. Louis Cardinals captured a photo of the bird, which he nicknamed "Ray." It has now become a focus of the local birdwatching community.



A rendering of the planned overpass in Oregon

NATURE WALK

Many wildlife bridges are covered with native plants to entice animals to cross them.

Government to fund wildlife crossings

The US Department of Transportation has announced that it will spend \$125 million to create 16 new wildlife crossings in 16 states. These structures are usually bridges or tunnels that allow local animals to safely bypass busy roads.

The new crossings will be built as part of the federal government's Wildlife Crossings Program, which was established in 2021 and distributed its first grants last year. In total, the program plans to award \$350 million over five years.

One of the projects will involve constructing a wildlife overpass bridge in Oregon to enable bears, deer, elk, and cougars to cross a highway. Another project, a highway underpass in Florida, will protect Florida panthers, white-tailed deer, and American alligators. The Pueblo of Santa Ana, a community of Indigenous people (first to inhabit a place) in New Mexico, will receive funds to develop crossings for antelopes and mountain lions. Other states that received grants this year include Alaska, Idaho, and Maine.

Safe passages for animals are important because more than a million collisions between motor vehicles and wildlife happen every year. These crashes kill and injure animals and people and cause billions of dollars in damage. When highways cut through habitats, they can also make it more difficult for animals to find food and mates.

About 1,500 wildlife crossings already exist in the US, and many have proven successful. Animals

used a set of crossings in Washington more than 5,000 times in 2022. In Arizona, crossings for migrating elk reduced wildlife-related vehicle accidents. Projects in other countries have also shown positive results. For example, crossings built in Canada's Banff National Park between 1996 and 2016 reduced collisions between vehicles and wildlife by 80%.

Oregon lawmaker Pam Marsh said

the crossing planned for her state will prevent crashes and support wildlife. She said, "I can hardly wait for the time that bears, mountain lions, and deer are safely traversing well above the freeway."



A Florida panther

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Peeled bananas left on English street corner each month vex locals" UPI





Around the world



The historical finds

Vilnius, Lithuania **Royal treasures recovered**

Long-lost artifacts belonging to medieval royalty have been found in the crypts (underground rooms) of Vilnius Cathedral. The artifacts had been discovered in 1931 but were hidden at the outbreak of World War II (1939–1945). They were rediscovered wrapped in newspapers from September 1939. The collection includes a crown that belonged to a king of Poland who lived from 1461 to 1506, rings, and a scepter.



Zoran Milanovic

Croatia **President wins another term**

Croatia's president, Zoran Milanovic, was re-elected on January 12 to serve another five years. Milanovic is from the Social Democratic Party, but the government is led by the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ) party. Milanovic won with more than 74% of the vote to defeat his opponent Dragan Primorac. Milanovic said, "I view this victory as recognition for my work [and] people's trust in me."



The leaders of Ethiopia (left) and Somalia

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia **Countries restore diplomatic ties**

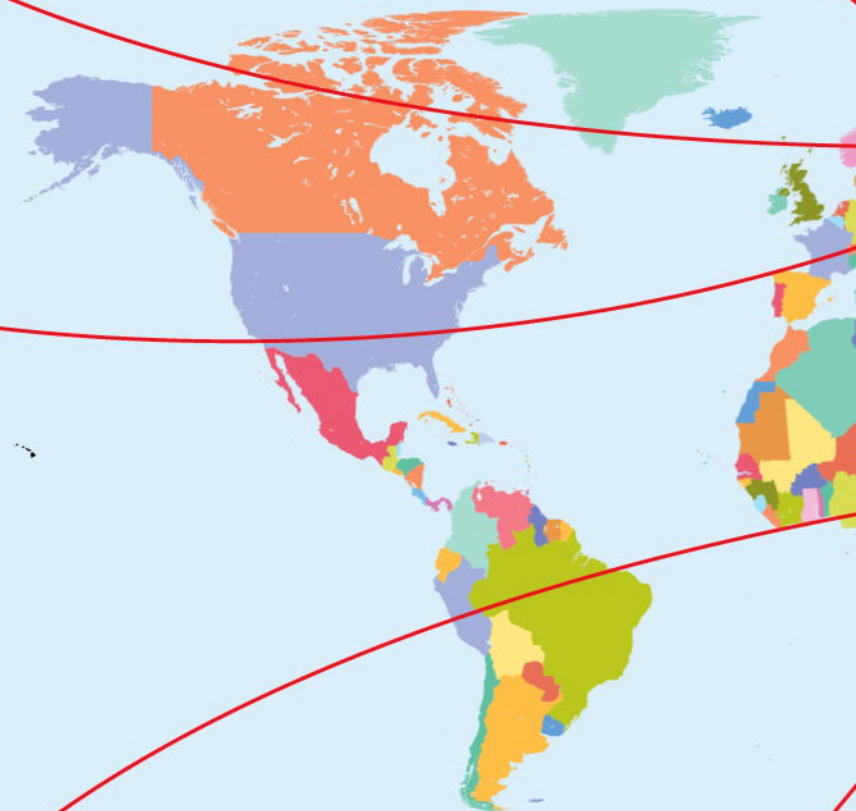
Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed of Ethiopia and President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud of Somalia announced on January 11 that the two nations have restored diplomatic relations. Somalia cut ties in 2024 when Ethiopia made a deal to support Somaliland, a region that claims independence from Somalia, in exchange for access to a port on its coast.

Damascus, Syria **International flights resume**

On January 7, international flights began leaving and arriving at Damascus airport for the first time in more than a month. Flights stopped on December 8 when Syria's president, Bashar al-Assad, and his government were overthrown. The first flight to land was from Qatar, which hadn't sent any planes to Syria since war broke out there in 2011.



People reunite.



Pakistan **Activist advocates for girls and women**

Malala Yousafzai urged Muslim leaders attending an international summit to challenge the Taliban on its policies for girls and women. The Taliban, an extremist group in control of Afghanistan, bans females from school, public places, and most jobs. She urged leaders "to use your power to oppose such injustices." Yousafzai won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 at age 17 for advocating for young people's right to an education.



Malala Yousafzai

GETTY IMAGES (7); GO VILNIUS; ABBY AHMED VIA X; ALAMY (2)

Around the world

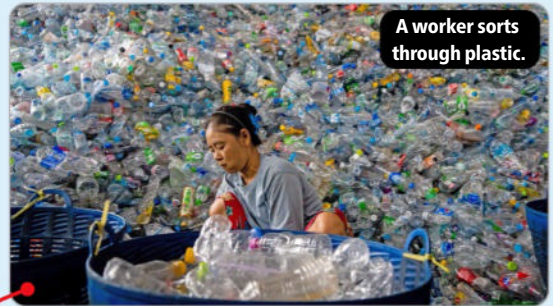


Rescuers help a man retrieve belongings.



Tibet, China Help after earthquake

A major earthquake took place about 50 miles from the base of Mount Everest on January 7. More than 3,600 buildings were destroyed and at least 46,000 people had to be relocated. About 14,000 rescue workers arrived to help stranded people, and the Red Cross Society of China provided tents and supplies to people who lost their homes.



A worker sorts through plastic.



Thailand New law bans plastic waste imports

A law has been passed in Thailand that bans imports of plastic waste from other countries. For several years, nations such as the US, UK, and Japan have given Thailand money to accept scraps of plastic waste. Thailand received more than 1.2 million tons of plastic between 2018 and 2021, and much of it was burned instead of recycled. Green campaigner Punyathorn Jeungsmarn called the ban a "great step forward."



Women capture the day in photos.



Japan Coming of Age Day celebrated

Thousands of people attended ceremonies on January 13 for Coming of Age Day. This national holiday is held on the second Monday of January to celebrate young people becoming adults. While the age of adulthood in Japan was lowered in 2022 to age 18, most participants were 20 years old. Men usually wear black suits and women wear kimonos, a traditional gown. They pray at shrines and listen to speeches about adult responsibilities.



Hadi Nazari (right) is taken to safety.



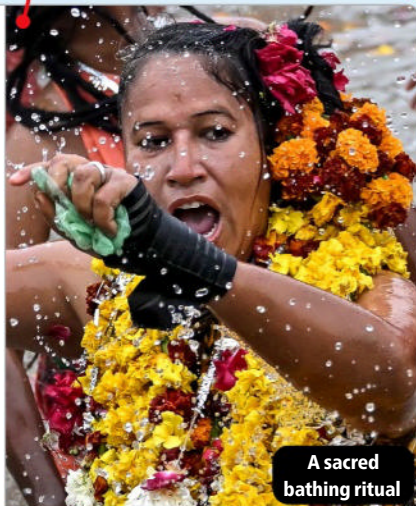
Kosciuszko National Park, Australia Lost hiker rescued

On January 8, a hiker who had been missing for 13 days was found. Hadi Nazari, age 23, got lost when he wandered from a hiking trail. He managed to survive on two granola bars he found at an abandoned hut. Nazari eventually saw hikers nearby and called to them for help. He was airlifted by helicopter to safety. Nazari thanked his rescuers for their "tireless work."



India World's largest religious festivities return

The Maha Kumbh Mela, the world's biggest religious gathering, began January 13 in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. About 400 million people are expected at the 45-day Hindu festival, which takes place every 12 years. Indian Railways has added 98 extra trains to carry visitors to the area. On the first day, devotees took a dip in the juncture of three sacred rivers: Ganga, Yamuna, and the mythical Saraswati.



A sacred bathing ritual



The big debate

Is it OK to have a messy bedroom?

The condition of your space can have a big impact on how you feel.

What you need to know

- A survey conducted in 2021 found that a messy bedroom was the third most common reason for a family argument.
- In a 2019 survey, more than 60% of the 4,000 parents who responded said that having a messy home was their biggest cause of stress.
- Experts say that young people are more likely than adults to be messy because the part of the brain that is responsible for organizing is still developing.



TOP PRIZE
An 8-year-old girl in Scotland won the UK's messiest bedroom contest in 2021. Her prize was a new bed.

If you have ever heard the words "Clean up your room!," you're not alone. It's not uncommon for kids and teens to be a little messy because they're still learning how to be organized. But a desk piled high with papers and books or a floor cluttered with sneakers and sports equipment can be stressful for you and the rest of your family. Studies have shown that a messy or disorganized living space can cause anxiety and even prevent people from thinking clearly. On the other hand, research has also found that some untidiness may be the sign of a creative mind. What do you think? Is it OK to have a messy bedroom?

Yes—it's really not a big deal

It's important for young people to have their own space where they can be in control and be themselves, whether they're messy or tidy. By allowing children to keep their room the way they want it, parents are nurturing their kids' independence. If adults don't like the mess, they can shut the door! Children who are messy will most likely grow out of it, so there's no reason to make them feel bad about their habits. And cleaning up your room is boring and takes time that could be spent on much more important things, like homework, hobbies, and friends. Besides, it will just get messy again.

No—straightening up is a life skill

Research shows that surroundings that are messy and cluttered can cause stress and prevent you from focusing on tasks. That's because your brain can get overwhelmed by all the visual information around you. A neat room, on the other hand, can clear your thinking, help you feel calm, and even boost your sleep. It also means you'll have enough space to do activities, you're less likely to lose stuff, and you can see the things that make you happy. Plus, your room might be yours, but it's still part of the family home and that should be respected. A tidy room is nice for everyone and—best of all—means no family arguments.

YES

Three reasons it is OK to have a messy bedroom

- 1 Giving children a space where they can express themselves and be in charge teaches them responsibility.
- 2 It's not unusual for children to be messy, but they will likely grow out of it and learn to be more organized.
- 3 There are better things to be doing with your time, like homework or hobbies.

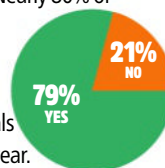
NO

Three reasons it is not OK to have a messy bedroom

- 1 A clutter-free environment leads to a clutter-free mind and can help you feel calmer and less stressed.
- 2 When your space is messy, you can lose track of the things you need and enjoy.
- 3 Your room's place in the family home should be respected. If it's a mess, it can cause tension in the house.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, our poll asked if we should make New Year's resolutions. Nearly 80% of you said yes to the idea of setting personal goals for the new year.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think it's OK to have a messy bedroom or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



Mission to inspire

Internet star Julian Shapiro-Barnum brings celebrities to schools in new series.

Julian Shapiro-Barnum, creator and host of the popular kid-focused web series *Recess Therapy*, has a new show, *Celebrity Substitute*. It features well-known actors, athletes, and musicians at New York City's public schools teaching kids their unique skills. It made its premiere last fall and now has more than 75 million views across social platforms.

Shapiro-Barnum, age 25, grew up in Brooklyn, New York, and studied acting at Boston University. In 2021, he graduated and launched *Recess Therapy*, where he interviews kids ages 2 to 9 about topics ranging from friendship to aliens. The show later evolved to feature discussions with kids with help from stars, including former First Lady Michelle Obama.

Celebrity Substitute was inspired by Shapiro-Barnum's own life. In elementary

school, he saw two comedians lead an improv workshop and it got him interested in acting. "*Celebrity Substitute* is about sparking creativity and inspiring kids," he told *Variety*. Guests have included music duo Billie Eilish and Finneas, who taught a class about songwriting, and Olympic gymnast Jordan Chiles, who took over a phys ed class. The show also teamed up with Amazon to get needed supplies to each visited school. In one episode, a school received new kitchen supplies and cooked with celebrity chef Antoni Porowski.

Shapiro-Barnum hopes the series highlights the vital work of educators. "The influence of my teachers has been profound," he said. "And for a long time, I've wanted to help recognize and support these dedicated professionals."



Antoni Porowski teaching culinary arts

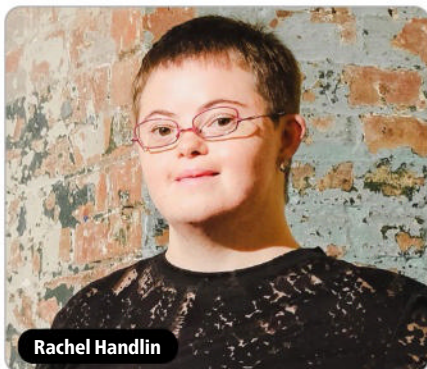


Julian Shapiro-Barnum

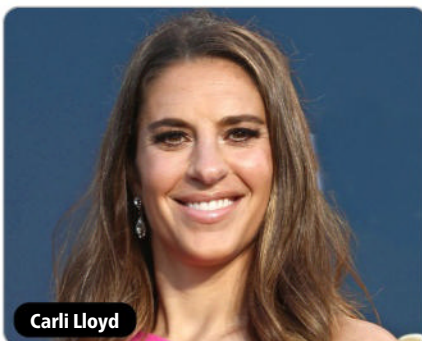
AWARD ALERT
Julian Shapiro-Barnum won the Webby Award for best internet host in 2023 and 2024.

Breaking art barriers

Rachel Handlin, age 29, is thought to be the first person with Down syndrome to earn a master's in fine arts (MFA) degree. Now she's also had her first solo exhibition shown at a New York City art gallery. Her exhibit, *strangers are friends I haven't met yet*, features photos, sculptures, and videos of 23 college graduates with Down syndrome. Handlin graduated from the California Institute of the Arts before getting her master's from Pratt Institute last May. Over five years, she and her mother traveled the world to find her subjects.



Rachel Handlin

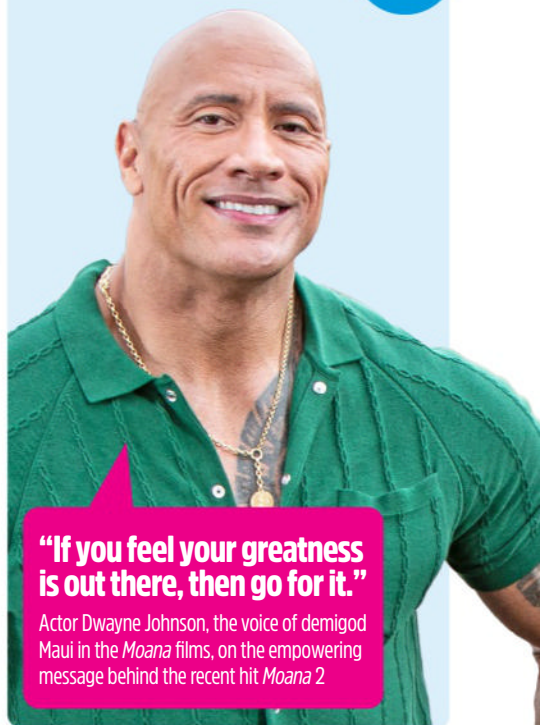


Carli Lloyd

Athlete is honored

Retired US soccer star Carli Lloyd, age 42, has been elected to the National Soccer Hall of Fame in her first year of eligibility. The midfielder grew up in Delran, New Jersey, and started playing soccer at age 5. During her 16-year career, Lloyd made 316 appearances with the US Women's National Team—the second most of any player—and helped them win two Olympic gold medals (in 2008 and 2012) and two World Cups (in 2015 and 2019). Lloyd was also named FIFA Player of the Year in 2016 and 2017. Her induction ceremony will take place on May 3 in Frisco, Texas.

OVERHEARD



"If you feel your greatness is out there, then go for it."

Actor Dwayne Johnson, the voice of demigod Maui in the *Moana* films, on the empowering message behind the recent hit *Moana 2*



Animals and the environment

STICKING TOGETHER

Chimpanzee communities can include more than 100 individuals.

Chimpanzees make tools from plants.



Adult chimps play too

Young chimpanzees are very playful, but a new study found that adult chimps also play with one another. This helps to build trust and cooperation and reduce social tension. After a play session, the adults who played together were more likely to hunt as a team or defend their territory together.



Chimps share knowledge about tools

Chimpanzees are known for their ability to use tools for tasks such as finding and obtaining food. A recent study has found that chimpanzees teach each other how to make tools and that the apes can improve these skills from generation to generation—a concept scientists call “cumulative culture.”

For the study, researchers looked at data from about 240 chimpanzees across 35 sites in Africa. This included information about the animals’ genes (short sections of DNA, the chemical that carries all the information about a living thing) so they could see how chimpanzees at different sites may be related to one another.

Most of the chimps used simple tools or none at all. However, some were capable of more complicated tasks. For example, a chimp might use a stick to dig a tunnel, then turn a plant stem into a brush-like device to scoop termites out of the tunnel and eat them. The study found that these advanced chimps were more likely to have genes in common with one another—even if they lived very far apart—than those who used simple tools or no tools.

Females appear to drive the chimps’ cultural advancements as they move into new groups to find mates. The study found evidence that female chimps had migrated between sites with simple

tools and sites with complex versions of those tools. This suggests that females teach their techniques to their new groups. Then other chimps add to those methods, making them more advanced over time. “It shows that complex tools would rely on social exchanges across groups—which is very surprising and exciting,” researcher Cassandra Gunasekaram told *New Scientist*. This kind of cumulative culture is a staple of human society, but it had not previously been documented in animals.

Still, some scientists disagree with the researchers’ conclusions about chimp culture. Claudio Tennie of the University of Tübingen, in Germany, told *The New York Times* it’s possible that each population of chimps developed these complicated skills on their own. He said, “You’re underestimating the apes’ cleverness!”



A chimp cracks nuts with a stone.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

First Landing State Park, Virginia

This Virginia Beach site is where English colonists first landed in the state in 1607. Now Virginia’s most-visited state park, the 2,888-acre area offers miles of trails and beaches along with marshland, lagoons, and forests. During late fall and winter, visitors can witness a natural wonder when sunlight hits the bald cypress swamp. Due to natural oils from decaying leaves, the water reflects a dazzling array of colors, turning it into a “rainbow swamp.” Visitors can also see animals such as turtles, horseshoe crabs, screech owls, harbor porpoises, and humpback whales.



A turtle in the park



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

Each bottlenose dolphin has a unique "whistle" that helps them identify one another. Delle has three.



Delle leaps at a harbor in Lübeck, Germany.

Lone dolphin is a big chatterbox

Delle, a solitary male dolphin living in the Baltic Sea, has mystified experts by making a symphony of sounds.

Bottlenose dolphins usually live in groups called pods and love to "chat" with one another. But Delle, who is originally from a pod in Scotland, has traveled hundreds of miles to an area with no other dolphins. When researchers lowered an underwater microphone, they were surprised to find he emitted 10,833 sounds in 69 days. "If we hadn't known that Delle was alone, we might have concluded that a group of at

least three dolphins were engaged in various social interactions," lead researcher Olga Filatova told Live Science.

At first the team thought Delle was trying to reach out to humans nearby, but he also made noises when he was alone at night. They think he may be talking to himself or making sounds involuntarily in response to emotions—like when humans laugh out loud after reading something funny. Because Delle made rhythmic noises while doing flips in the air, another theory is that he is producing beats to "dance" to.

Animal of the week

Straw-colored fruit bat

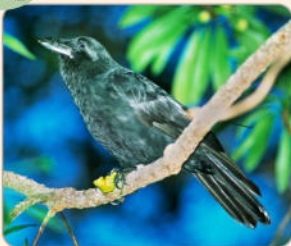


In the world's largest mammal migration, millions of straw-colored fruit bats fly from all over Africa to Zambia's Kasanka National Park. They arrive in the fall and stay until January, sleeping in trees during the day and feasting on local fruit at night.

- **LIFE SPAN:** 15 to 20 years in the wild
- **HABITAT:** Mostly tropical forests in Africa
- **SIZE:** 5 to 8 inches with a 30-inch wingspan
- **DIET:** Fruit, seeds, nectar, and flowers
- **FUN FACT:** These bats are nicknamed "flying foxes" due to their dog-like faces and ears.



Good week / Bad week



'Alalā

Five Hawaiian crows, or 'alalā, have been released on the Hawaiian island of Maui. The birds have been extinct in the wild since 2002. Previous attempts to reintroduce them failed, but experts are hopeful that this one will succeed.



Lions in Uganda

The number of lions in Uganda has fallen to a critically low level, researchers found when studying six protected wildlife areas. The population has consistently declined over the past 50 years and now stands at about 291 lions.



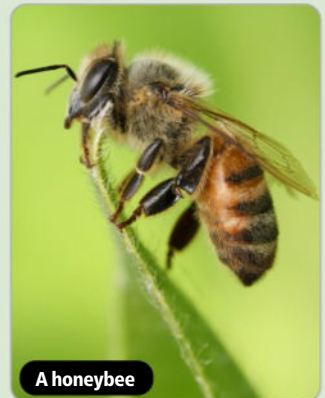
"Can bees sting only once in their life?"

Reverie, 9, New Jersey

Bradley Lawrence

Animal curator,
Phoenix Zoo

When a honeybee stings a human, the barbed "stinger" stays attached to the human, leaving the bee with a mortal wound. Only female honeybees have stingers, which are modified egg depositors. However, many other species of bees can sting multiple times without dying.



A honeybee

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Phoenix Zoo at phoenixzoo.org.



All about Alvin Ailey

A trailblazer in the

Alvin Ailey was one of the greatest choreographers of the 20th century.

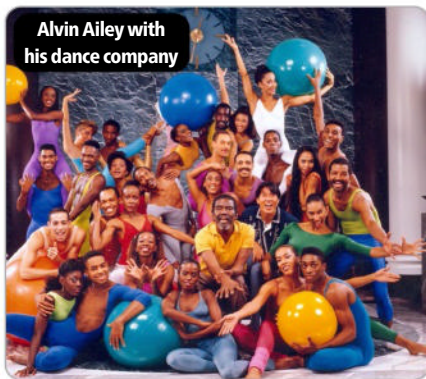
A visionary in modern dance, Alvin Ailey was a Black American who broke through racist barriers to become a cultural icon.



Alvin Ailey and his mother

Early life

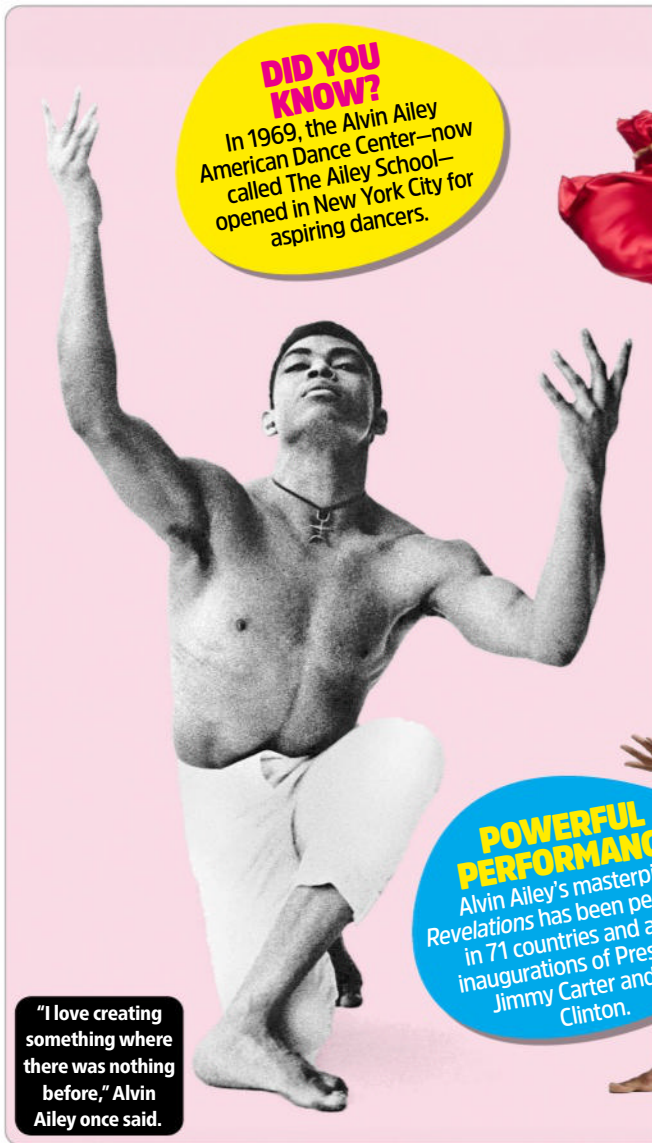
Alvin Ailey Jr. was born on January 5, 1931, in Rogers, Texas, in the Jim Crow era (a long period in US history when racial segregation was legal). He grew up in a single-room cabin that had only a bed and a stove for furnishings. His mother, Lula, was a single parent who raised Ailey while earning a living by cooking, cleaning, and picking cotton. When Ailey was about 10, they moved to Los Angeles, California. There, a teacher introduced Ailey to ballet and he saw his first theater show. But he couldn't find any Black artists performing.



Alvin Ailey with his dance company

Meeting a mentor

At age 17, Ailey was introduced to the dance studio of choreographer Lester Horton, who became Ailey's mentor. Horton ran one of the nation's first racially integrated dance companies, where Ailey learned artistic techniques and how to infuse movements with emotion. After Horton's death, Ailey became the company's director. He moved to New York City in 1954 and studied dance from prominent dance professionals such as Hanya Holm and Charles Weidman. In 1958, at age 27 and during the civil rights movement, he founded the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater to portray and celebrate Black culture and experiences onstage.



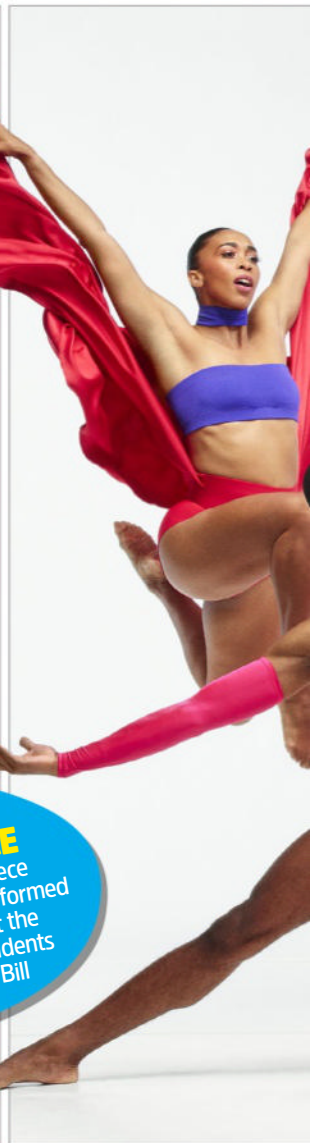
DID YOU KNOW?

In 1969, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center—now called The Ailey School—opened in New York City for aspiring dancers.

"I love creating something where there was nothing before," Alvin Ailey once said.

POWERFUL PERFORMANCE

Alvin Ailey's masterpiece *Revelations* has been performed in 71 countries and at the inaugurations of Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton.



Artistic influences

Alvin Ailey drew inspiration from leaders in the worlds of dance, music, theater, and books. He studied the work of modern dance masters like Martha Graham and Jack Cole. Ailey was a teen when he first saw jazz great Duke Ellington perform, and he became a lifelong admirer. He later collaborated with Ellington, using his music for dance pieces such as *Reflections in D*. Ailey also admired author James Baldwin, poet Langston Hughes, and playwright Tennessee Williams. Ailey, who created 79 ballets, once said, "I wanted to be a painter. I wanted to be a sculptor. I wanted to write the great American novel. I wanted to be a poet. And for me, dance somehow holds all of these things."



Duke Ellington



dance world



The Alvin
Ailey American
Dance Theater



Alvin Ailey, Minnie
Marshall, and Nathaniel
Horne in *Blues Suite*

Groundbreaking works

Ailey's company initially struggled to find places where they could perform because of racism. Their first show was the 1958 ballet *Blues Suite*, based on Ailey's experiences growing up in rural Texas. One of his most acclaimed creations, *Revelations*, a ballet that portrayed the faith and strength of Black Americans, made its premiere in 1960. The dancer Judith Jamison's performance of Ailey's *Cry*—which he dedicated to “Black women everywhere, especially our mothers”—made her a global star. By 1962, Ailey's company was touring worldwide.



Edges
of Ailey

Lasting legacy

Ailey retired as a dancer in 1965 but continued to work as a choreographer. In 1982, he was awarded a United Nations Peace Medal. He received a Kennedy Center Honor in 1988 for his contributions to American culture. The tributes continued after his death on December 1, 1989. In 2017, he received the Logo Trailblazer Honor for his contributions to LGBTQ equality. In 2014, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Over the years, the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater has performed for 25 million people. *Edges of Ailey*, an exhibit about his life and work at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City, is on view until February 9.



Martha Graham

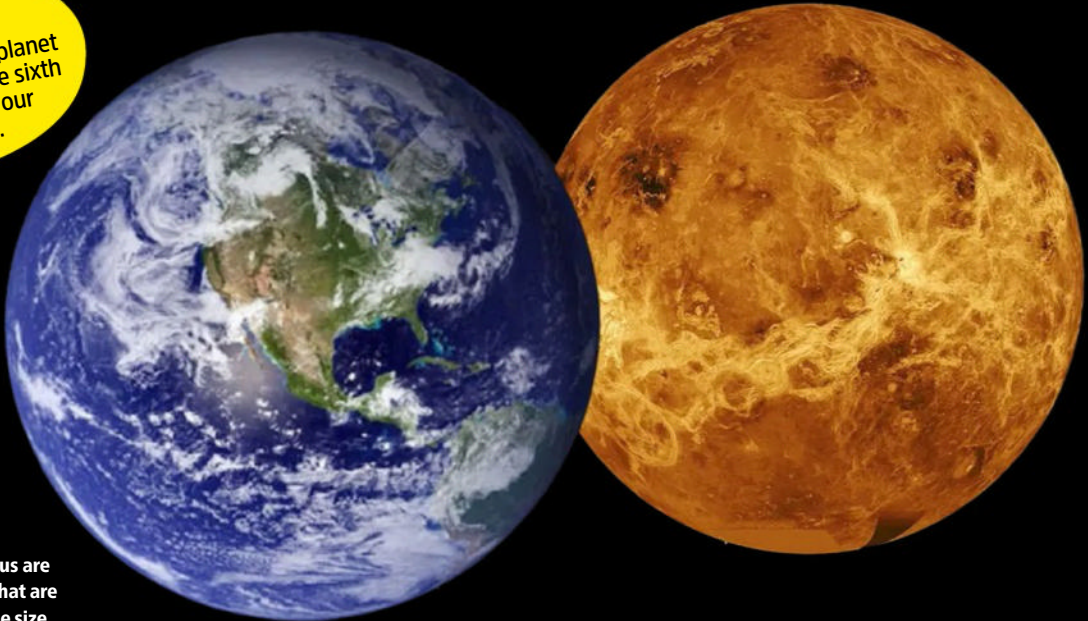


Jack Cole



EARTH'S NEIGHBOR

Venus is the second planet from the Sun and the sixth largest planet in our solar system.



Earth and Venus are rocky planets that are about the same size.

No sign of life on Earth's "twin" planet

For many years, scientists have debated whether the planet Venus could have supported life since its formation 4.6 billion years ago. A new study suggests it probably has never been habitable.

Venus, which is our closest neighbor, is sometimes referred to as "Earth's evil twin." The planets are similar in size and made of the same materials. But Venus is referred to as "evil" because it is the hottest planet in our solar system, with an average surface temperature of nearly 932° F. It also has the most volcanoes of any planet in our solar system and is covered with thick clouds of acid.

Some scientists believe Venus might have once had oceans on its surface. This would be an important indicator of the planet's habitability because liquid water is essential to the development of life as we know it. To test this theory, a team of scientists from the University of Cambridge, in the UK, carefully analyzed the planet's atmosphere.

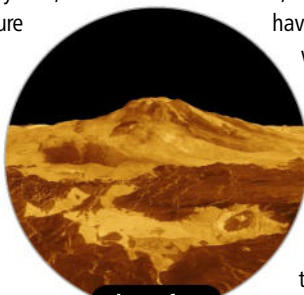
Volcanoes release gases that come from deep inside a planet. Those gases end up in a planet's atmosphere, and studying them offers a glimpse of where they came from and what's under the surface. On Earth, which has a lot of water in its interior, volcanic eruptions release mostly steam.

The team analyzed the composition of the atmosphere on Venus and determined that it had very little water in it—only 6% at most. These "dry" eruptions indicate that the planet's interior contains very little water. That led the scientists to conclude that oceans have never existed on the planet and it has never been habitable. "Given [that] it likely never had oceans, it is hard to imagine Venus ever

having supported Earth-like life, which requires liquid water," said Tereza Constantinou, the study's lead author.

Several spacecraft have been sent to study Venus, but the planet remains a bit of a mystery. According to Constantinou, scientists will know more in the early 2030s, when the DAVINCI spacecraft, operated by NASA (the US space agency) studies Venus in more detail (see box at right).

The results of the Cambridge study and future research could help scientists learn more about the possibility of life on other planets beyond Venus and Earth. "If Venus was never habitable, then it makes Venus-like planets elsewhere less likely candidates for habitable conditions or life," Constantinou said.



The surface of Venus

Other Venus missions



The Parker Solar Probe

Many space agencies are studying Venus, including NASA, which launched the Parker Solar Probe in 2018. Parker's primary mission is to study the Sun, but it has also conducted seven fly-bys of Venus and gathered crucial data that can be used for future research. NASA will launch the DAVINCI spacecraft in the 2030s. DAVINCI "will study the origin, evolution, and present state of Venus in unprecedented detail," NASA said.

The European Space Agency launched the Venus Express, its first mission to the planet, in 2005. The spacecraft spent more than eight years studying the planet before contact was lost in 2014. It made several interesting discoveries, including that two gases—carbon dioxide and oxygen—glow in Venus' atmosphere and that there is quite a bit of lightning on the planet.



Seaweed could reduce cow emissions

Cows are a major source of greenhouse gases (gases that trap heat in Earth's atmosphere) because they burp and fart—a lot. When they do that, they release a greenhouse gas called methane. Scientists are hoping to solve the problem by feeding the cows seaweed.

Cows have four chambers in their stomachs. The first chamber ferments the food to make it easier to digest. The process not only creates methane but also makes the cows burp and fart.

Scientists have previously fed seaweed pellets to cows being raised for their milk or to be eaten, with positive results. Seaweed contains a compound called bromoform that reduces methane production in cows.

In the new study, scientists gave seaweed to steers (male cows) that graze on grass. They produce more methane than other cows do because of the high fiber content of the grass.

The researchers split 24 cows at a ranch in Montana into two groups. One group was given seaweed pellets and the other was not. The cows that ate the pellets released nearly 40% less methane than the others did.

Although the results were positive, experts explained that it's difficult to give seaweed to cattle that graze over large areas of land. One solution could be to feed the pellets to the cows in the winter, when grass is less available and their food is supplemented by farmers and ranchers.



Livestock like cows produce 12% of all global greenhouse gas emissions.

GAS TAX
In 2030, Denmark will become the first country in the world to tax farmers for methane emissions from animals' farts.

The soft robotic device is worn like a harness.



Robotic shorts help people walk

Robotic "shorts" can help older people stay mobile as their ability to perform regular activities is reduced. The WalkON shorts could improve people's overall health.

Designed by researchers at the Technical University of Munich, in Germany, WalkON fits like a harness and is easy to pull on over clothing. A waist belt connects to thigh straps that have strong cables in them.

WalkON analyzes the wearer's hip angle, speed, and energy use

as they walk or jog. Based on the data it has gathered, the device activates the cables to support the leg's upward movement and take stress off the body.

The researchers studied 22 people ages 67 and older, who wore WalkON on a flat track and an uphill trail. Their walking efficiency improved, and they used about 10% less energy. That's equivalent to the person carrying 13 pounds less weight on their bodies.



A pen that has millions of colors



The Colorpik pen

A new pen gives artists access to 16 million colors, all in one device. Colorpik has sensors that scan colors on real objects, like the leaf of a plant or paint on a wall. It stores the colors in its memory, then mixes four inks in refillable cartridges to precisely re-create them.

Colorpik can be used to draw on paper or on a screen for digital art. It comes with four different tips—ballpoint, needle, brush, and marker—that let artists create different effects. The pen runs on a rechargeable battery that can last for up to 15 hours.



Photos of the week



Lounging around

Sanjay Patil captured this photograph of a lizard in India.



Strike a pose

Jose Miguel Gallego Molina snapped this photo of a Flemish mantis in Spain.



MILKO MARCHETTI; JOSE MIGUEL GALLEGO MOLINA; SARTHAK RANGANAIDHAN; KINGSTON TAM; TAPANI LINNAMAKI; SANJAY PATIL

Photos of the week



Free to be three

This image of spotted owlets in India was taken by Sarthak Ranganadhan.



Wide eyes

Kingston Tam shot this picture of a frog in Australia.



Paws out

Milko Marchetti took this shot, the overall contest winner, of a squirrel in Italy.



Ruffling feathers

This photo of a white-tailed eagle in Finland was taken by Tapani Linnanmäki.



Sports

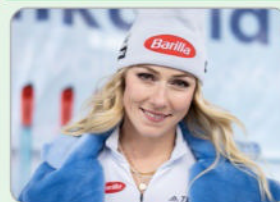
TEAM PLAYER

In 2020, Lindsey Vonn hosted the reality series *The Pack*, which was about 12 teams of dogs and their companions competing for a prize to help animals.



Lindsey Vonn competing in the Alpine Ski World Cup in Austria

Top skier recovering



Mikaela Shiffrin (above), the most decorated alpine skier of all time, said she is skiing again after suffering a racing injury in November. Shiffrin, who is one victory away from 100 career World Cup race wins, called her return "successful" but didn't say when she would race again.

US ski star makes return to racing

Lindsey Vonn of the US, who is one of the greatest ski racers in women's World Cup history, has come out of a six-year retirement and is making a promising comeback. Over the weekend of January 11 and 12, she competed in two races at an Alpine Ski World Cup event in St. Anton, Austria, and placed sixth and fourth.

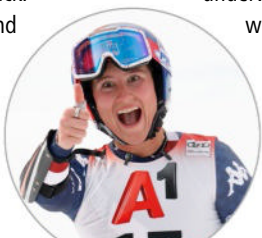
Vonn, age 40, holds the record for the most World Cup downhill victories with 43, the most for men or women. During her career, she won four overall World Cup titles and 82 World Cup races, the second most of all time. She also won Olympic gold in the downhill at the 2010 Vancouver Games and

multiple World Championship medals. Vonn retired in 2019 after racing injuries took a toll on her body. While she was in retirement, she underwent a knee replacement surgery, which was successful. Afterward, she said she felt better than ever.

In November, Vonn thrilled the world of skiing when she announced she would return to competing and was setting her sights on participating in the 2026 Winter Olympics, which will be held in Italy. Her first post-retirement race took place in December in St. Moritz, Switzerland. She competed in the super-G (super giant slalom, an event that combines speed and turns) and finished 14th.

Vonn's first event in Austria on January 11 was a big deal because it was her first downhill race, which is considered her specialty. In a tight competition, she took sixth place, finishing 0.58 seconds behind champion Federica Brignone of Italy and first among the Americans. When Vonn crossed the finish line, she raised both arms in the air and smiled. "That was fun," she told Eurosport.

The next day, Vonn competed in the super-G and finished fourth. The winner of that race was another American, rising star and Olympic hopeful Lauren Macuga, age 22. With her victory, Macuga became the youngest American to win a World Cup speed race since Vonn in 2007. Coming into the race, Macuga had never finished higher than fourth in a World Cup race.



Lauren Macuga

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

PRO BASKETBALL

The Cleveland Cavaliers defeated the Oklahoma City Thunder, 129–122, on January 8, giving Cleveland the best record in the NBA, 33–5. Cleveland center Jarrett Allen scored 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds in the win.

On January 11, the Denver Nuggets defeated the Brooklyn Nets, 124–105. The Nuggets' Nikola Jokic and Russell Westbrook each had triple-doubles in points, rebounds, and assists.

The Cavaliers' Donovan Mitchell (right) and the Thunder's Luguentz Dort



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

In one of the biggest comebacks in NCAA women's basketball history, the University of Pittsburgh rallied from 32 points behind to defeat Southern Methodist University, 72–59, on January 12.

TENNIS

Alex Michelsen of the US, age 20, pulled off an upset win in the first round of the Australian Open. He was unseeded and defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas, the 11th seed, in four sets.



WOW!

A record 26.6 million people played golf on an outdoor course in 2023, an increase partly driven by more beginner players.



Team New York's
Xander Schauffele

Indoor golf league starts season

Golf fans now have a new way to enjoy the sport, thanks to two famous players. Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy teamed up to create the TGL, which stands for "Tomorrow's Golf League." It features top golfers competing indoors, creating a very different format compared to when the game is played outdoors on traditional courses.

The TGL is made up of six teams representing six cities. There are 24 pro golfers participating in the league, and 13 are winners of major championships. Three of each team's four players compete in two-hour matches in a venue built specifically for the TGL inside the SoFi Center in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

The league's matches are a mix of virtual and physical gameplay, making them entertaining to watch. For example, there is a virtual simulator for

long shots and a real putting green for short shots. Big screens show swings and putts, upbeat music is played, and live crowds are encouraged to cheer.

On January 7, the first match was played as nearly 1 million viewers watched on ESPN. Team Bay Area, led by Jon Rahm and Collin Morikawa, went head-to-head with Team New York, which featured Justin Thomas and Keegan Bradley. A match consists of 15 holes. Each hole is worth one point, and the team with the fewest strokes on the hole wins the point. With five holes remaining, Shane Lowry sunk a shot to secure the seventh point for Team Bay Area, which helped clinch their 9–2 victory.

Each week, two teams will compete. The 15-match regular season is set to run through March 4. Playoffs will take place later that month.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Kaha Tavadze**

Team: **Gjøa Solbakken (soccer)**

"Coach Kaha is an inspiring leader! He is a great influence on me and my team and is always there for us. He makes us laugh in our scrimmages, but when it is time to focus, he becomes serious. He gives amazing pep talks, and before games he always says, 'If we win, we win as a team. If we lose, we lose as a team.' Kaha has also taught me a lot of skills and positions and how to be a strong defender. He has made me a better soccer player." Nils, 9, New York



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Sammy Sullivan

AGE: 26 SPORT: RUGBY

TEAM: TEAM USA/ARMY WORLD CLASS ATHLETE PROGRAM

Big change I attended the United States Military Academy for college. I wanted to play soccer there, but the coach said, "We don't have any walk-on spots, and you're not going to make the team." I decided to try rugby. I wasn't sure what it was all about, but I quickly fell in love with it.

Special sport Rugby is a lot like football without the pads or stoppages in time. There are a lot of weird little quirks and rules—you can only pass backward—but it's so much fun. It's an intense sport, which really drives team connection.



Group effort Before the Olympics last year, we focused on our mental game—how we were going to respond to mistakes and stay in the moment. In big games, I focus on connecting with my teammates through a pat on the back, a high five, a thumbs-up, or even just eye contact.

Mind game I've always been a chronic nonbeliever in myself, but I've used that as a superpower, pushing myself to go the extra mile and work harder outside practice.

Top moment My biggest accomplishment is winning the bronze at the Olympics. It was the first medal any US rugby team had won in rugby sevens, the form of the game played at the Olympics.

Looking ahead My next goals are to continue developing as an Army officer and to compete at the Los Angeles Olympics in 2028.

Best advice Don't be afraid to try out new sports because you never know what might click.



Arts and entertainment

TOP SHOW

Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock was recently nominated for 10 Children's & Family Emmy Awards.

Jim Henson's
Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock Live



Fraggle Rock heads out on tour

Characters from the music-filled TV series are now starring in a live show that is traveling across the US.

The TV series *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock* is known for its good-natured puppet characters, wacky humor, and catchy songs. Now fans can experience it all in person. *Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock Live* is a new stage show inspired by the series that is touring the US. It runs through May 11.

Fraggle Rock was created in the 1980s by Jim Henson, who also created the Muppets. *Back to the Rock* premiered on Apple TV+ in 2022, and the second season came out last year. The show centers on the Fraggles, creatures living in a cave network

called *Fraggle Rock*. A main theme of the show is how everything in the world is connected.

Back to the Rock Live has 18 existing *Fraggle Rock* songs and a new story. It was written, directed, and choreographed by John Tartaglia, one of the series' executive producers, writers, and puppeteers. He told *The Week Junior* that turning the TV series into a live musical made perfect sense. "Every story has stakes and adventure, characters you care about, and music that moves you, which is everything that makes a great theater show."

The main Fraggles from the TV series—friends Gobo, Red, Boober, Mokey,

and Wembley—are in the stage show, but instead of being controlled by puppeteers, they are human-sized costumed characters. "They can spin, jump, kick, and do everything you can imagine the Fraggles would do," Tartaglia said. Because the Fraggles got bigger, other characters had to be made larger too. For example, the Doozers, who are 6 inches tall on TV, are now the size of hand puppets. The largest puppet onstage is more than 13 feet tall and 16 feet wide.

Tartaglia said *Back to the Rock Live* was made for both kids and adults. One hope, he said, is that people who see it will experience "the magic world of puppetry and creativity that Jim Henson brought to the world."

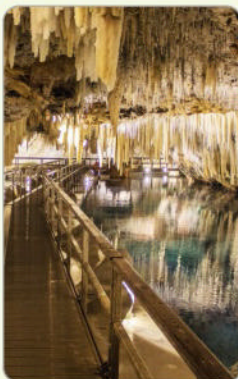


John Tartaglia

3 facts about *Fraggle Rock*

Magical location

The TV show's caves were inspired by the Crystal Caves in Bermuda (right). They were discovered in 1907 by two boys who were playing in the area.



Creature creators

Puppets in *Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock* and the live show were made by Jim Henson's Creature Shop, an award-winning workshop. The team there has worked on projects that include other TV shows, films (such as *Where the Wild Things Are*), and Lady Gaga concerts.



Jim Henson and Wembley

Music man

Back to the Rock's music is overseen by producer Harvey Mason Jr. (right). He and his team did the live show, too. He is also in charge of the Recording Academy, the group behind the Grammys (top music award).





DID YOU KNOW?

There were 121 original episodes of the TV series *Henry Danger*.



Henry Danger: The Movie

TV superhero grows up

The popular Nickelodeon sitcom *Henry Danger* aired from 2014 to 2020 and followed Henry Hart, a regular teen who worked as Kid Danger, the sidekick to superhero Captain Man. The series wrapped up with Henry retiring from his life as a crime fighter, but his story hasn't ended. He is back—as an adult—in *Henry Danger: The Movie*, the first feature film based on the show. It was just released on Paramount+ and Nickelodeon.

In the movie, Henry gets pulled into his former role by a superfan, Missy Martin, who wants to fight crime as Kid Danger's sidekick. After she ends up with a device that opens portals to alternate dimensions, she and Henry get trapped in worlds based on her fan fiction. The film stars original cast members Jace Norman as Henry, Sean Ryan Fox as his best friend Jasper, Ella Anderson as Henry's

sister Piper, and Michael D. Cohen as quirky genius Schwoz. Frankie Grande also returns as one of the show's original villains, Frankini, and he created a new song for the film too. Viewers who are familiar with the Dangerverse can look forward to seeing “a ton of Easter eggs and tips-of-the-hat to the original series,” director Joe Menendez told *The Week Junior*.



Frankie Grande

One big difference between the movie and the sitcom is how they look. The show was filmed on sets with bright lights and multiple cameras, while the film was made to look like a superhero movie grounded in the real world. The characters still “bounce around several zany realities,” Menendez said.

Menendez hopes the film appeals not only to longtime fans of the series but also to superhero-movie lovers of all ages. “It's got lots of action, comedy, and heart too,” he said.



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Big Cats, Small World (PBS app) (PBS.org) (PBS) January 22 at 8 p.m. ET

This new two-part documentary is about families of lions, cheetahs, and leopards in Botswana. The storylines include an aging lion defending his pride, lionesses raising cubs as a group, and a cheetah helping her cubs gain independence.



The Six Triple Eight (Netflix)

The 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion was the first all-Black Women's Army Corps unit to serve overseas during World War II (1939–1945). This inspiring new drama is about the work they did to ensure that US troops didn't lose touch with people back home. It is rated PG-13.

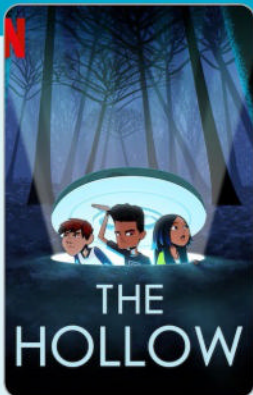


Goosebumps: The Vanishing (Disney+) (Hulu)

In the newest chapter of the spooky anthology series based on R.L. Stine's *Goosebumps* books, teen twins Devin and Cece move in with their dad and uncover a chilling family secret. As they look into it, the pair and their friends face dark supernatural forces. It is rated TV-14.



READER RECOMMENDS



The Hollow (Netflix)

“This show is about three kids who wake up in a strange, magical realm with no memories of how they got there or how to escape. They find notes in their pockets that contain their names: Adam, Mira, and Kai. Together, they work to find a way out, solving puzzles and traveling through portals to different locations. Along the way, they have dangerous adventures, like being chased by polar bears and zombies. They also discover that they have superpowers. The show is filled with drama and mystery, and it is very fun to watch.” Rocco, 12, Illinois

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen

BIG HIT

Animal Crossing: New Horizons is the second-best-selling Nintendo Switch game of all time.



Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp Complete

New version of Animal Crossing game

Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp Complete is a cozy mobile game that is part of a popular Nintendo series. It is out now for Android and iOS devices.

Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp first came out in 2017 as a free mobile game. Like other games in the series, it put players in charge of building a community for chatty dogs, cats, birds, and other creatures. Pocket Camp was set at a campsite with locations that players could customize with items such as buildings and furniture, as well as activities.

In the old version of the game, players would have to make in-game purchases with real money to get certain upgrades and items. In the Complete version, you pay once to download the game and everything in it is free. The change means you get immediate access to more than 10,000 items. Gamers who played the previous version can transfer their data to the new one.



The game's main campsite is surrounded by locations you can visit on getaways. They include Lost Lure Creek, Saltwater Shores, and Sunburst Island. Each one has collectible supplies and resources that can be used to build, sew, and grow the amenities and items on the main island. There is also a treasure hunt that acts as a fun way to fill up your campsite's bank account.

Even though you don't have to use real money to buy anything in the new game, Pocket Camp Complete still has its own in-game currencies. The main one is Bells, and they can be earned by catching and building things, then selling them at the market. The new version of the game also uses Leaf Tokens, which you can earn by completing different tasks. They can be spent on special items or to speed up construction, which is especially helpful when you're building places for visitors to hang out.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

CULTURE KIDS PODCAST

Major podcast platforms

The goal of this show is to explore different cultures around the world with the aim of inspiring respect and inclusivity. The hosts, a mother and her son, discuss topics that include a harvest festival in South Korea, the popularity of pumpkin spice, and why koalas are beloved in Australia.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



EAGLECAM

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-EagleCams

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has set up two cameras that allow online viewers to observe bald eagle nests. One of the cameras is focused on an active nesting area, while the other remains in a former nesting area within the habitat in case eagles return to it.

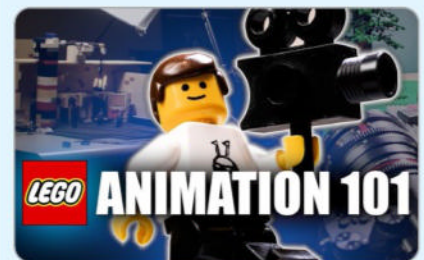


VIDEO OF THE WEEK

BEGINNERS GUIDE TO LEGO STOP MOTION ANIMATION

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-StopMotion

Fans of stop-motion animation films can learn how to make their own shorts at home with this step-by-step video guide. It explains the basics of stop-motion animation and has tips and tricks for making the characters move.



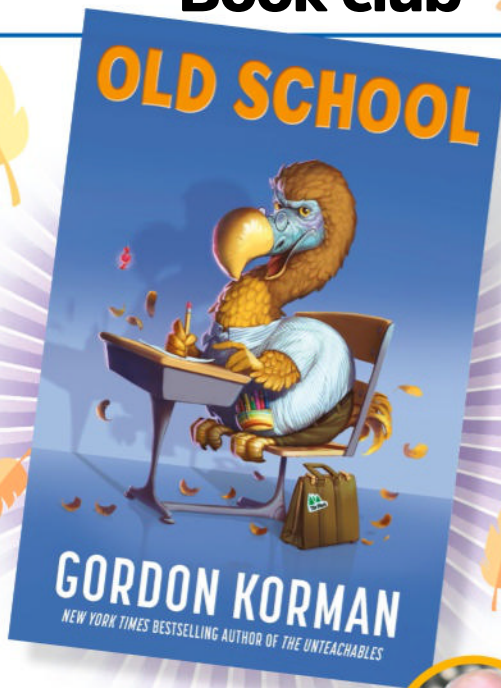


BOOK OF THE WEEK

Old School

By Gordon Korman
(Harper)

On bingo night at the retirement community where Dexter and his grandmother have lived for the past six years, a school district official interrupts the game. He informs Dexter that he must attend seventh grade at the public middle school. Although Dexter pleads that he's being homeschooled by great teachers, including an award-winning author who lives in the retirement community, the official doesn't back down. The next day, Dexter hops on the school bus with a briefcase instead of a backpack. While the school counselor is showing him around, Dexter notices there is a noisy radiator in a classroom. He bursts in and uses a quarter to fix it on the spot. After teaching some kids how to play shuffleboard and repairing a step on the staircase in the run-down school, Dexter starts to make friends. He also avoids getting beat up by bullies thanks to skills he learned from a former boxer who lived in the retirement home. But when a classmate loses his money in a cafeteria vending machine, Dexter's actions get him in trouble and lead to a big twist. This heartwarming story shows you what kids and senior citizens can learn from one another. It may remind you of *Sluggo*, another book by Gordon Korman.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Gordon Korman

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?

Many of my parents' friends have moved into retirement communities, giving me the chance to observe the customs and personalities there. I got the idea for a story about a child who is caught between that world and middle school.

Were you close with your grandmother?

Yes, I was close with both of my grandmothers. But when I was 7, we moved away, and I became a long-distance

grandkid. It was tough giving up that closeness we'd had.

Were you good at fixing things as a kid?

Absolutely not—and I'm still not. The Mr. Fix-It thing is a tribute to my dad, who, at age 90, is still very handy.

Best writing advice?

Tell the story honestly, stay true to the characters, and the humor will take care of itself.

Favorite winter beverage?

Hot chocolate with very large marshmallows.



4 new cookbooks full of tasty recipes

Find out how you can make delicious dishes from all over the world.



Chefs Wanted!

By Allegra McEvedy

(DK Children)

Written by a famous chef who was born in London, this

cookbook contains 45 recipes for meals and snacks. Some recipes show you how to make common British foods, such as scones, while others help you make popular Japanese dishes, like ramen. *Ages 7 and up*



Cooking Class 10th Anniversary Edition

By Deanna F. Cook

(Storey Publishing)

The "Snack Attack" chapter of this newly updated cookbook features recipes for guacamole, hummus, tortilla chips, and cheesy crackers. There are 73 recipes in all, including ideas for breakfast and dessert. Step-by-step photos make the directions easy to follow. *Ages 8 and up*



Rebel Girls Cook

By Rebel Girls Inc.

(Ten Speed Press)

The 100-plus recipes in this kid-tested cookbook span a variety of cuisines, and many are vegetarian. You may especially enjoy Turkish Scrambled Eggs and Japanese Mushroom Onigiri (rice-filled triangles). Short, inspiring biographies of prominent female chefs are sprinkled throughout the pages. *Ages 7 and up*



A World of Flavor

By Gabrielle Langholtz,
illustrated by Tania García

(Phaidon Press)

You can cook your way around the globe with this book that contains recipes from dozens of countries. Dishes include Gado Gado (vegetables with peanut sauce) from Indonesia and Borscht soup from Ukraine. It's also full of interesting facts about popular foods in each of the countries. *Ages 7 and up*

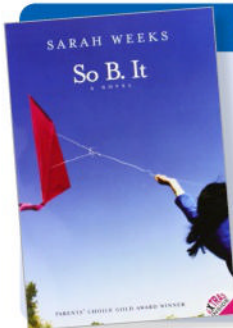


READER RECOMMENDS

So B. It By Sarah Weeks

"This book has the perfect mix of mystery, suspense, and twists. It is about a girl named Heidi. She and her mom, who is disabled, have been cared for by their neighbor since Heidi was a baby. Then Heidi learns something about her past that leads her to go on an adventure. I wanted this book to go on forever! I recommend it to anyone who enjoys a good story!" Naomi, 10, Florida

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...



Boost your mood this winter

Follow these steps to de-stress and feel happier during the darkest days of the year.

If you're wishing for spring when there are still many weeks of winter left, one way you can feel more energized is to practice hygge. Originating in Denmark and pronounced "hoo-ga," this practice is when people take purposeful steps to feel cozy and content while appreciating the small things in life. Here's how you can get started with hygge to feel more at peace during the winter months.

Get rid of clutter

Take a look around to see what you have that you could pack away to use at a later time or give away to someone who could use it. You can choose to focus on one space at a time—such as your bedroom or the living area. With an adult's help, set up two boxes: one for belongings you or your family members want to store in a closet and another for items to donate. Once your space is tidy, you may find you already feel more peaceful.

Think about light

In winter, there is less sunlight to enjoy because the sun rises later and sets earlier than it does at other times of the year. That's why a significant part of practicing hygge involves using soft light at home. One simple way to get

this effect is with lamps. A lamp delivers softer light than an overhead ceiling light does. You can also achieve a similar effect by setting out battery-operated candles.

Consider colors

According to hygge, the colors in your surroundings can affect how you feel. To feel cozier, talk to the adults in your family about adding warmer colors, such as golden yellow and peachy orange. These shades can make a space seem cozier compared to cool colors like mint green and icy blue. You might simply switch out pillow coverings or blankets from another room or place a bowl of oranges on a table.

Bring the outdoors inside

You don't have to wait until spring to have a picnic. Spread a blanket on the floor of your living room, put on fuzzy socks and sweaters, and enjoy lunch or dinner with your family. You could also read or play cards or a board game there afterward.

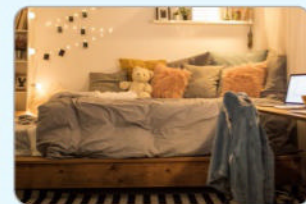
Work on a puzzle

Research has shown that completing jigsaw puzzles can reduce stress and boost problem-solving skills. Set one up on a desk or table in your home, and with your family's help, aim to complete a few pieces every day.



Get comfy in snuggly clothing!

Create a cozy corner



Setting up a snug space indoors to read, do homework, or just hang out can help you feel more focused and relaxed. Here's how.

Pick a spot. You don't need an entire room as your personal space—even a corner where you can place a bean bag, cushy chair, or futon can work.

Think soft. Make your space extra comfy with the addition of a fluffy pillow, soft blanket, or favorite plush toy.

Personalize it. Finish your space with special touches. Some ideas are a string of LED lights, a favorite photo on the wall, and a stack of books you love or want to read next.



FUN FACT

The heaviest sweet potato in the world, weighing more than 81 pounds, was grown in 2004 in Güime, Spain.



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using a knife or the oven.

Bake up veggie sweet potato boats

Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 medium sweet potatoes, halved lengthwise
- Kosher salt
- Black pepper
- 1 medium broccoli crown, cut into florets
- 1 small yellow or orange bell pepper, cut into 1-inch pieces
- Half red onion, cut into 1-inch pieces
- ½ cup cherry tomatoes
- ¾ teaspoon smoked paprika
- ¼ cup tahini
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 garlic clove, grated
- 1 lemon, half wedge
- Pine nuts, for garnish (optional)

Instructions

1. Heat the oven to 425° F. Use 1 tablespoon of the olive oil to brush the potato halves and season them with salt and pepper. Arrange on a baking sheet cut-side down. Bake on the middle rack for 20 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, toss together the broccoli, bell pepper, onion, and tomatoes with the smoked paprika and 1 tablespoon olive oil. Season with salt and pepper and spread on a baking sheet.
3. Keeping the potatoes in the oven, add the sheet of vegetables to the oven's lower rack and increase the temperature to 450° F. Bake

until everything is tender and the vegetables are charred in some spots, for about 15 minutes. Cool slightly.

4. Use a fork to lightly mash the flesh of each potato, keeping the skin intact. In a small bowl, whisk together the tahini, maple syrup, garlic, lemon juice, and remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil with 2 tablespoons water until creamy. Season with salt and pepper.
5. Fill each potato with one quarter of the vegetables and drizzle with tahini dressing. Sprinkle with pine nuts if using. Enjoy immediately. Makes 2 to 4 servings.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

SEAL THE DRAFTS IN YOUR HOME

If you walk by a window or door in your home and feel a draft of cold air coming through, energy could be getting wasted. That's because the draft could be causing your home's heating system to work harder to keep your home warm. Research shows that effectively sealing drafts can reduce a home's energy use by up to 20% over the course of a year. If the draft is small, there are simple steps you can take to keep the cold air out. Roll up towels and put them under doors to create a seal against cold air. Lock windows to ensure they are tightly closed. On particularly cold days, keeping blinds and curtains closed can also help your home stay warm more efficiently.

Keep out the cold.





Puzzles



Word search

Can you find all these words that mean "excellent" in the grid? They are hidden horizontally, vertically, or diagonally and can be forward or backward. When you're done, read the remaining letters to get a bonus message.

AMAZING
AWESOME
COOL
DANDY
DOPE
FAB
GLORIOUS
GREAT
GROOVY
NEAT

NIFTY
OUTSTANDING
PEACHY
PHENOMENAL
RADICAL
SUPER

SWEET
SWELL
TERRIFIC
TREMENDOUS

L O
A N
E N T
T A E N
F Y R M
I R D O
N I A G N I Z A M A
F L F W E A O W R D F
G O R I P E A C H Y D E Y O U
L O O C S N U B P P E R S C A
O A G N I D N A T S T U O L T I
R F C F R A S U O D N E M E R T
I G T I I L U I S O T I E C E
O Y X P D I P A L P S W E L L
U I D T A E R G E S O C I
S O U G R O O V Y S



OFF SIDES

Make three different five-letter words by using the letters given to fill in the blanks.

D E H L O Y

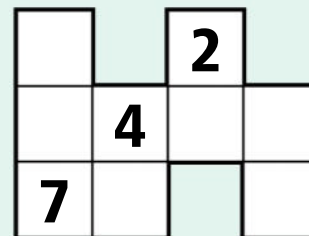
□ I N G □

□ I N G □

□ I N G □

Out of order

The numbers 1 to 9 can fit, one per square, so that no two consecutive numbers are in squares that touch in any way, even at a corner. Use the numbers already given to figure out where the rest of the numbers go.



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks in each sentence with two words that are spelled identically but have two different pronunciations and meanings, like TEARS in your eyes and TEARS in a cloth. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

- At the end of the concert, the violinist lowered her _____ to her side and took a deep _____.
- The dentist gave my father a _____ of shots, and Dad later said his mouth was _____ than it's ever been.
- _____ the groundskeeper know that the bucks are eating all the deer food and the _____ aren't getting any of it?

Spot the difference

These two pictures of a messy bedroom appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





One might call them visionary.

All eyes on public art antics

The town of Bend, Oregon, has been struck by a googly-eye bandit. A mysterious prankster has placed googly eyes on at least eight public art installations on the city's Roundabout Art Route, including a large sphere and a sculpture of a deer family. Local officials recently pleaded for an end to the peeper pranks, explaining that the adhesives used to attach the eyes could damage the artwork and removing them can be expensive. But other residents were charmed by the guerrilla googlies. "This town is getting to be so stuffy," one said. "Let's have fun!"



It's mined!
All mined!

Going for gold in a big way

A metals factory in Dubai—the United Arab Emirates metropolis known as the "City of Gold"—announced that it has officially produced the world's largest gold bar. Tipping the scales at 661 pounds, the glittering goliath weighs 20 times as much as an average bar of gold. It also has a top-tier purity rating of 999.9, meaning that no other metals are mixed in with the valuable gold. The bar's total worth is estimated to be about \$25 million. A representative of the factory said, "This has been a dream of ours [for] a long time, and it is very exciting to finally see it come true."



The runners chilled out.

Shattering a freezing cold record

Late last year, 15 runners traveled to Antarctica to compete in a first-ever ultra-endurance race in -13° F temperatures. Competitors in the Antarctic Ice Ultra race had the option of running distances up to 62 miles, or they could work in teams for a 24-hour relay race. The route was a 2.6-mile loop with a tent where competitors could warm up, and they wore special clothing and trail-running shoes for extra grip on the ice. After weeks of training, US runners Paul Johnson and Roberto Sembrante set a new world record for the fastest 100-mile run in Antarctica, completing it in 23 hours, 22 minutes, and 57 seconds.

Real or fake?



Holy aioli!
Sauces only?

A destination for dip lovers

At a new Florida restaurant created by the KFC fast-food chain, sauces and dips take center stage. Instead of fried chicken meals, Saucy's offers only condiments. Diners are expected to bring in their own food to dip into sweet teriyaki, spicy jalapeño pesto ranch, creole honey mustard, and other signature sauces, which come individually or in flights of four. Saucy "lets consumers play with flavor," said KFC's Christophe Poirier. "Everyone is obsessed with sauce." Is this story real, or have we tendered a lie?*

*Fake! Saucy is a real restaurant that recently opened in Orlando, but its menu includes chicken tenders, sandwiches, sides, drinks, and desserts along with the sauces. If customers like the concept, it might expand to more locations.



Your turn

Editor's note

As *The Week Junior* went to press on January 14, wildfires had been burning in the Los Angeles area of California for a week (p2). The devastation caused by this natural disaster—one of the worst in our nation's history—has been difficult for all of us to comprehend. We hope the courageous workers who have been battling the fires nonstop since they began will soon have them under control. We also offer our appreciation to the thousands of people who have stepped in to provide food, shelter, and supplies to those in need. It has been inspiring to see the outpouring of kindness during this emergency, and I know it will continue. If you live in the area—or if you have family or friends who do—we want you to know we are thinking of you during this sad and scary time. We send wishes of hope and comfort to you and your loved ones.

Andrea Barbalich
Editorial Director



Meeting an icon

“I read the Jane Goodall article in *The Week Junior* and really enjoyed it. I then also read her biography. When I found out she was coming near my home in Florida for her birthday tour, of course I went! I enjoyed listening to Goodall talk about her life. It was like reading the book and the article all at once. I got a chimpanzee stuffed animal named Kevin. He came with papers that said I had adopted him from the Jane Goodall Institute and that the donation would go to help him. He lives at the Tchimpounga Chimpanzee Rehabilitation Center in the Republic of Congo. I really enjoyed learning so much about Jane Goodall and hope to learn more.”



Livi, 11, Florida

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



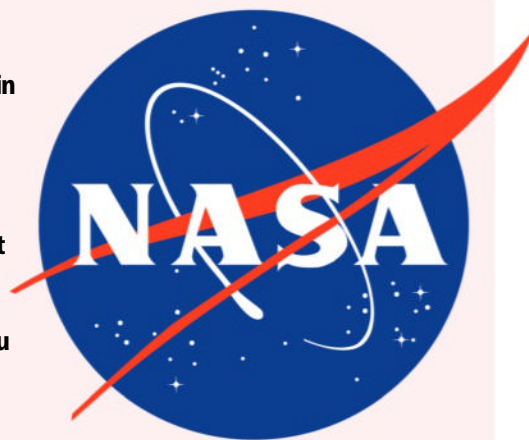
Cradles to Crayons

This organization supports children in need from birth until age 12. It provides them with essentials such as diapers, clothing, shoes, and school supplies. Its Gear Up for Winter initiative distributes warm coats and other winter accessories to families. Since its founding in 2002, it has supplied nearly 6 million packages to children. Find out more at cradlestocrayons.org.



NATIONWIDE CONTEST OPPORTUNITY

NASA, the US space agency, has launched its fourth annual Power to Explore Student Challenge. Students in grades K–12 are invited to write an essay about their idea for a nuclear-powered mission to a moon in the solar system. Essays should include details on where they would go, what they would explore, and how they would use radioisotope power systems, a type of nuclear battery. You can find out more about the contest, including when and how to apply, at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-NASAcontest.



RIDDLE OF THE WEEK
What odd number becomes even if you take away one letter?
Seven

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I made *The Week Junior's* sheet pan gnocchi for my whole family. Everyone loved it!" **Theo**, 11, Massachusetts

"My baby brother and I love reading *The Week Junior*." **Zaynab**, 10, with **Husayn**, 7 months, Texas



"I carried *The Week Junior* from the US to Peru and then on a five-day trek over the Salkantay Pass to the historic sanctuary of Machu Picchu." **Charles**, 11, California



Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mr. A**

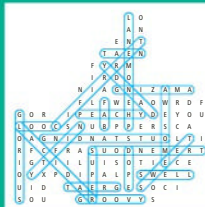
School: **Asbury Elementary School**

"The teacher I am nominating for Teacher of the Week is Mr. A. He is my math teacher. Mr. A is funny, caring, and generous. He likes to tell jokes, and if he gets a cupcake or doughnut for someone's birthday, he'll give it to a person in the class. He makes math fun with easy strategies, awesome songs, great computer activities, and more. Mr. A is overall a really amazing teacher."

Alma, 9, Colorado

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Puzzle answers (from page 26)



Word search

Unused letters: One final word for you:
supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

Off sides

dingy
hinge
lingo

Fill in the blanks

1. bow
2. number
3. does



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 Delle 2 c) Venus 3 False. The Fraggles are human-sized costumed characters. 4 c) Quarter 5 b) 16 6 *Celebrity Substitute* 7 False. It is called Tomorrow's Golf League. 8 a) Ida B. Wells 9 False. They think female chimps drive the advancements. 10 Missy Martin 11 True 12 b) *Revelations* 13 True 14 Cows 15 a) Bend, Oregon

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your first name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What is the name of the chatty bottlenose dolphin who lives alone in the Baltic Sea?

2 Which planet is sometimes referred to as "Earth's twin"?

a) Mars b) Mercury c) Venus

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? In *Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock Live*, the Fraggles are hand puppets.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In the book *Old School*, what does Dexter use to fix a broken radiator?

a) Penny b) Nickel c) Quarter

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

5 The US Department of Transportation recently announced funding for how many new wildlife crossings?

a) 6 b) 16 c) 26

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 What is the name of internet personality Julian Shapiro-Barnum's new series?

7 True or false? The new indoor golf league created by Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy is called Today's Golf League.

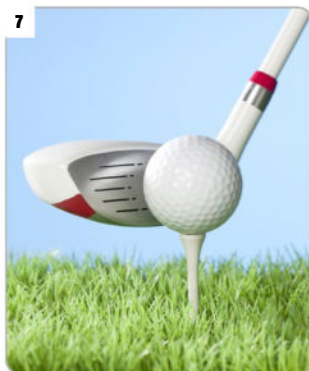
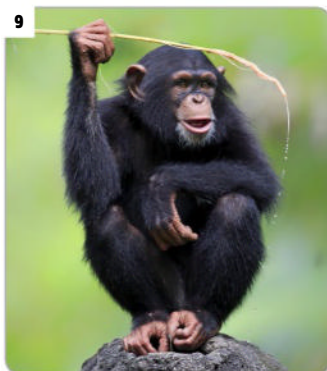
True ☐ False ☐

8 The US Mint has released a quarter depicting which civil rights activist?

a) Ida B. Wells b) Harriet Tubman

c) Sojourner Truth

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



9 True or false? Researchers think male chimpanzees drive cultural advancements as they move from group to group.

True ☐ False ☐

10 In *Henry Danger: The Movie*, what is the name of the girl who pulls Henry back into his life as a superhero?

11 True or false? Skier Lindsey Vonn holds the record for the most downhill victories in the Alpine Ski World Cup.

True ☐ False ☐

12 What is the name of Alvin Ailey's famous ballet that portrays the faith and strength of Black Americans?

a) *Swan Lake*

b) *Revelations*

c) *Giselle*

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

13 True or false? In the video game *Animal Crossing: Pocket Camp Complete*, players get access to more than 10,000 items right away.

True ☐ False ☐

14 What animals are being fed seaweed to prevent their burps and farts from releasing harmful greenhouse gases?

15 In which US city has a prankster put googly eyes on at least eight public art installations?

a) Bend, Oregon

b) Boise, Idaho

c) Boone, North Carolina

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

THE WEEK Junior

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